

REMARKS

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the abstract to make the length thereof compliant with MPEP §608.01(b).

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-17 are in the case as of the date of this amendment. Claims 7-12 have been allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 7-12.

Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 7 of U.S. Patent No. 5,457,815.

Claim 13 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9, 10 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,457,815.

Claims 2, 6 and 14 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These rejections and objection are respectfully traversed in view of the instant amendment. Specifically, Applicants have amended

(i) independent claim 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of "objected to" claim 2, and

(ii) independent claim 13 to incorporate all of the limitations of "objected to" claim 14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as claims 3-6 as depending therefrom, and claim 13, as well as

claims 15-17 as depending therefrom, are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of all the art of record, the claims remaining in the case are considered to patentably distinguish thereover.

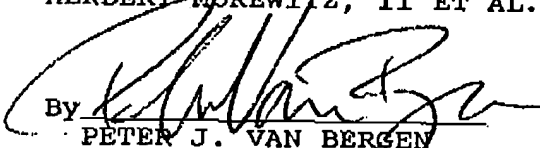
It is submitted in view of these remarks that all grounds for rejection have been removed by the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to phone Peter J. Van Bergen, attorney for Applicant, 757-220-2649, if in her opinion such phone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of subject patent application.

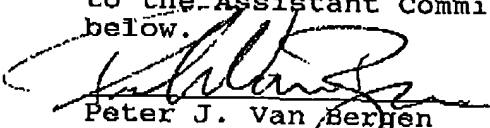
Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT MOREWITZ, II ET AL.

29 September 2004

By   
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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents on the date shown below.

  
Peter J. Van Bergen  
Attorney of Record

Sept 29, 2004  
Date of Signature